Not on reading file

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr. GENERAL

E/ECA/14/767
27 February 1980

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, 3-8 April 1980

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifteenth session/sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, 9-12 April 1980

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS IT AFFECTS AFRICAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

E/ECA/NAIROBI

Report of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly as it affects African Socio-economic development

The General Assembly of the United Nations, which held its thirty-fourth session from 18 September 1979 to 7 January 1980 considered a large number of issues related to the world economic situation generally and in particular to the special development problems of the developing countries as they affect international economic co-operation. The discussions held in plenary and in the Second Committee on economic issues emphasized the need to improve the present world economic order. This was the general view of both developed and developing countries.

2. A general appraisal of the world economic situation and of progress in the North-South dialogue, the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the proposal by the Group of 77 on the holding of a new round of global negotiations, the role of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly resolution 32/174 to oversee and monitor the implementation of decisions and agreements reached in the negotiations on the establishment of the new international economic order in the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system and the energy problem featured prominently among the issues discussed.

3. Representatives from the Third World laid stress on the upheaval and crises in the international economic system, particularly in terms of low rates of economic growth, enormously high rates of inflation, currency fluctuations, diminishing export earnings of the developing countries, catastrophic increases in balance-of-payments deficits and many other features which affected in a very serious manner the economies of the developing world.

4. With regard to the North-South dialogue, the developing countries expressed dissatisfaction with the meagre results achieved so far and deplored the fact that the developed countries which were contracting parties to GATT had not taken fully into account in the multilateral trade negotiations the interests and concerns of the developing countries. It was pointed out that, contrary to the commitments made by the developed countries in the Tokyo Declaration, no real attempt to extend special and preferential treatment to the developing countries had been made in the negotiations. Consequently, the negotiations had to be continued in order to incorporate fully the essential concerns of developing countries in the final outcome of the negotiations.

5. On the issue of the new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the developing countries accused the developed ones of a lack of political will and held them responsible for the resulting impasse in the work of the Preparatory Committee charged with preparing the new Strategy. They called on the Preparatory Committee to consider, as one of the important features of the Strategy, the transfer of resources in the order of 300 billion dollars, at 1977 real values, to the countries of the Group of 77 in the form of donations and long-term, low-interest soft loans.

6. The developed countries expressed the hope that it would be possible in the long run to agree on the Strategy, appealing both to developing and developed countries for a spurt of understanding. The Socialist countries pointed out that the exercise of formulating a new Strategy would be worthwhile only if such a Strategy would contain, as a minimum, the progressive provisions and principles established in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. They also maintained that, in order to achieve practical results, the new Strategy should concentrate on ways and means of achieving its aims and on the practical steps to mobilize internal sources of development.

7. Towards the end of the session, the impression prevailed among the Third World delegations that no real breakthrough had been achieved although they did not fail to stress the interdependence of interests in the world community as a whole and predicted a bleak future for every member of the international community if urgent action was not taken radically to redress the injustice inflicted upon the Third World through colonial and neo-colonial exploitation.

8. For the developed countries, the present world economic situation was a manifestation of the fact that the period of sustained growth in the economies of the industralized countries had come to an end. Because these countries were going through a period of uncertainty and recession, this had led to a worsening of the already very difficult situation of the developing countries. As a remedy, they suggested the strengthening of global economic co-operation.

9. For the developing countries, however, there were some prospects for a lasting solution to their development problems with the agreement reached on the launching of a new round of global and sustained negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, such negotiations being action-oriented, allowing for an integrated approach to the main issues involved; proceeding simultaneously on different planes and being open to universal participation. Such negotiations should take place within the United Nations system with the full participation of all States and within a specified time framework to be worked out in the Committee of the Whole specific proposals should be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session in 1980. The negotiations should include major issues in the field of raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance, and make a significant contribution to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (See resolution 34/138).

10. Without being too optimistic, the developing countries were however disposed to see in these negotiations a qualitatively new stage leading to the practical establishment of the New International Economic Order, through the redistribution of the wealth of the developed countries in favour of the developing world. Indeed, according to Ambassador Salim A. Salim, President of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, "one of the most significant achievements of the session was the agreement on global negotiations. Because the climate and atmosphere of serious, meaningful negotiations that went on between the developed and the developing countries augur well for the

preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on development which is supposed subsequently to launch global negotiations formally."

11. Then, acting on various proposals submitted by the Group of 77, the General Assembly adopted a series of resolutions and decisions of direct interest to the Commission in as much as they affect the socio-economic development of the African region in particular and of developing countries generally.

12. In resolution 34/15 of 9 November 1979 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the Assembly recalled its previous resolutions on this matter, noting with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish an integrated African road network and to rationalize Africa's railway systems and other transport systems in order to facilitate the promotion of multinational economic co-operation in Africa, intra-African trade and the political, social and economic integration of Africa and noted with satisfaction the progress report submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/160, which contained the global strategy and programme of action for the first phase of the Decade. In the operative part of the resolution, the Assembly took note of the global strategy for the implementation of the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning. It noted that the estimated cost for the implementation of the programme approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning for the first phase of the Decade, 1980 - 1983, was approximately $US 8 billion, requested the Secretary-General to continue his work of organizing a pledging conference of donors, which actually took place in New York on 20 November 1979, with a view to mobilizing the financial resources necessary for implementing the programme for the first phase of the Decade, and invited all member States, all international multinational and African regional banking and financial institutions to participate positively in the pledging conference and to pledge contributions generously. The Assembly also called upon all appropriate specialized agencies and United Nations organs to continue to give all material and technical support to the Economic Commission for Africa for the implementation of the approved programme of action for the Decade.

13. By its decision 34/454 of 20 December 1979 on the revised statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the General Assembly approved the revised statute of the Institute as amended by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Commission after amendment of article IV.2 (d).

14. It should be recalled that under the terms of its decision 32/428B, on 21 December 1977, the Assembly:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the observations made in the Fifth Committee on 15 December 1977, by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; and

(b) Decided to request the Economic and Social Council to transmit the statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa for consideration and revision in the light of the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report.

15. Consequently the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, by its resolution 350 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 adopted the revised statute and the Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1979/72 of 3 August 1979, decided to bring to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session the revised statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the text of which is annexed to the present document.

16. To make the United Nations system more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation, the General Assembly, by its resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979 on the implementation of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, emphasized the need for more vigorous action to enable the regional commissions to play their role fully as the main general economic and social development centres within the system. The Secretary-General was requested to intensify, through, inter alia the redeployment of existing posts from Headquarters to the regional commissions, the development and application of the decentralization measures and in co-operation with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, to provide all the necessary support to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its review of policy and programme issues relating to the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the regional commissions and other United Nations units, programmes and organs concerned. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme was also requested to prepare, in co-operation with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, proposals for enhancing the collective involvement of the countries of each region in the identification and the initiation of regional projects and activities as well as in the determination of priorities for intercountry programmes.

17. By its resolution 34/207 of 19 December 1979 on the preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980, the Assembly reaffirmed its decision that the special session would, on the basis of an assessment of the progress made in the establishment of the new international economic order, take appropriate action for the promotion of the development of developing countries and international economic co-operation, including inter alia for the adoption of the new international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and for the launching of global negotiations relating to international economic co-operation for development. The Assembly also decided to hold the special session at a high political level from 25 August to 5 September 1980 (see also decision 34/448) and invited Member States to re-examine, bearing in mind the need to establish the new international economic order, their position in the important international economic problems, so as to enable the General Assembly to achieve positive results at the special session. The Secretary-General was requested to accord the necessary high

priority to and to provide the necessary facilities and resources for all preparatory arrangements for the special session. The Assembly then invited the Committee of the Whole, in its capacity as a preparatory committee for the global negotiations, to organize its work in such a manner so as to be able to submit its final report to the Assembly at the special session.

18. By its resolution 34/211 of 19 December 1979 on proposals for the new international development strategy, the Assembly reaffirmed that the new international development strategy should address itself, among its priority objectives, to increasing substantially the flow of resources in real terms to the developing countries on a predictable, continuous and increasingly assured basis. The Assembly referred, in this context, to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy consideration of all aspects of the proposal presented in this connexion to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session concerning the transfer to developing countries of an additional amount $US 300 billion in the form of financial resources, material resources and technical assistance during the 1980-1990 decade, as a contribution to development, of which yearly commitments of at least $US 25 billion should be made during the early years of the Third United Nations Development Decade. The Assembly then agreed that the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy should consider the feasibility and the ways and means of implementing those proposals.

19. Acting on the recommendation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the General Assembly, by its resolution 34/203 of 19 December 1979, decided to convene a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1981 and decided further that the Conference should have the objective of finalizing, adopting and supporting the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries, as outlined in resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Assembly also decided to designate the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to act as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on the Least Developed Countries, open to the full participation of all States members of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; the Assembly further decided to initiate the preparation of studies by the relevant secretariats of the United Nations system and requested donor Governments and the least developed countries themselves to initiate similar studies, and requested the Preparatory Committee to consider any additional studies that might be necessary. The Assembly then invited the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, especially the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, to extend their fullest co-operation, support and contribution to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

20. By its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979 on special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, the Assembly endorsed the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries contained in resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, called on donor countries to consider urgently, as a step towards the implementation of the immediate action programme, how they

should best provide assistance bilaterally or through appropriate multilateral channels such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Programme Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, in response to requests from the least developed countries for immediate additional financial support, in order to ensure that sufficient resources were provided to supplement the activities undertaken by the least developed countries themselves. The Assembly noted that such additional assistance would be for 1980 and would in no way adversely affect the share of the least developed countries in the indicative planning figures of the United Nations Development Programme to be considered for the third programming cycle and recommended that official development assistance to the least developed countries should as a general rule be in the form of grants and that loans to those countries, when provided by mutual agreements, should be on highly concessional terms. Donor countries and multilateral development institutions were urged to allocate increased financial resources and technical assistance in support of activities aimed at transforming the major structural characteristics of the least developed countries. The Assembly then invited all international development institutions and specialized agencies, as well as bilateral donor institutions, regional commissions and the relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, to accord a high priority to special measures for the least developed countries and to give their full support for the Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. It further invited the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy to take fully into account, in the formulation of the strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the special and pressing problems facing the least developed countries.

21. By its resolution 34/209 of 19 December 1979 on the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, the Assembly urged all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, to review their position towards the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, giving due consideration to the special constraints affecting the land-locked developing countries in their efforts towards economic and social development and to their needs for additional assistance to overcome such constraints, particularly with respect to transport, transit and related difficulties. The Assembly appealed to all Member States, in particular developed countries, as well as international organizations and multilateral financial institutions, to contribute generously to the Fund at the forthcoming United Nations pledging conference for development activities, and requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other related institutions to pursue action in favour of land-locked developing countries within the framework of the interim arrangements, taking into account that each country concerned should receive appropriate technical and financial assistance. The Secretary-General was requested to include in his analytical report to the General Assembly at its special session in 1980 on the implementation of the new international economic order, an assessment of the situation of the land-locked developing countries.

22. By its resolution 34/202 of 19 December 1979 on economic co-operation among developing countries, the General Assembly welcomed the initiatives of the developing countries in adopting the First Short Medium-Term Action Plan for Global Priorities on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in February 1979, and the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation and the resolution containing the policy guidelines on the reinforcement of collective self-reliance between developing countries, which were expected to make a significant contribution to furthering economic co-operation among developing countries. The Assembly urged that the developed countries and international organizations should provide appropriate support and assistance to the process and activities of economic co-operation among developing countries, bearing in mind the Arusha Programme and its principles and objectives of economic co-operation among developing countries, namely, that:

(a) Economic co-operation among developing countries was a basic component of the efforts towards the establishment of the new international economic order and as such was based on common interests and co-operation among all States;

(b) Economic co-operation among developing countries, being a matter that chiefly concerned the developing countries, should be devised and implemented by them at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, and appropriate, concomitant support action on the part of the developed countries and organizations of the international community was needed to contribute to its implementation. The Assembly further urged action to enable developing countries to participate effectively in the execution of projects financed in developing countries and urged developed nations to contribute to the implementation of projects of economic co-operation through the United Nations. It requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to convene a special session of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and to intensify further the efforts of his organization in support of relevant programmes of economic co-operation among developing countries.

23. By resolution 34/117 of 14 December 1979 on technical co-operation among developing countries, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to intensify their efforts to ensure that technical co-operation among developing countries was an integral part of their activities for international co-operation for development; it approved the proposals made by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in his report regarding arrangements for a high-level meeting to review technical co-operation among developing countries to be held in 1980 and requested the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions, in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to contribute to the preparation of the high-level meeting and actively participate in it. The Assembly then urged all countries to take immediate steps to implement the agreements arrived at in the Buenos Aires

Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, and called upon developed countries to comply in particular with those contained in recommendations 35 and 38 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

24. By its resolution 34/205 of 19 December 1979 on Action Programme in favour of developing island countries, the General Assembly called for urgent implementation of measures agreed on by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth and fifth sessions in resolutions 98 (IV) and 111 (V) and also called on the international community to ensure that the criteria, terms and conditions governing the flow of bilateral and multilateral financial and technical assistance to these countries should be geared to their specific needs and problems. The Assembly recommended that United Nations system should consider steps to respond positively to the specific needs of developing island countries, and that the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy should take fully into account, in the formulation of the strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade, the particular needs and problems of developing island countries. The Assembly recommended that particular attention should be given to requests for assistance from developing island countries and called upon regional commissions to identify appropriate action in favour of the developing island countries in their respective regions.

25. By resolution 34/198 of 19 December 1979 on specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, the General Assembly reaffirmed the right of land-locked developing countries to free access to and from the sea and their right to freedom of transit, called upon all countries, international organizations and financial institutions urgently to implement the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries and noted with regret that the assistance given so far fell far short of the needs of these countries. The Assembly urged all donor countries as well as the international organizations concerned to provide land-locked developing countries with appropriate financial aid and assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, improvement and maintenance of their transport and transit infrastructures and facilities, and invited the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy to take fully into account, in the formulation of the strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the special problems relating to land-locked developing countries. The Assembly then recommended intensified activities relating to conducting necessary studies and the implementation of special actions and action programmes at the regional and subregional level, in co-operation with the regional commissions.

26. By resolution 34/217 of 19 December 1979 on immediate measures in favour of the most seriously affected countries, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the appropriate agencies, organs and bodies of the United Nations system, to review and study speedily the situation of those developing countries which, given their low per capita income as a reflection of relative poverty, low productivity and low level of technology and development, merited consideration as most seriously affected by the current economic crisis caused by sharp increases in the

prices of their essential imports, and to submit a preliminary report to the Committee of the Whole at its first substantive session in 1980, as well as to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy at its fourth session, and to include a final report in the analytical report to the General Assembly at its special session in 1980. It called upon all donor countries, in the meantime, to consider extending relief and assistance to those countries which might be most seriously affected by the current economic crisis, bearing in mind immediate balance-of-payment and development needs.

27. By resolution 34/193 of 19 December 1979 on particular problems confronting Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets, the Assembly endorsed resolution 110 (V) of 3 June 1979 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fifth session, and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to enable the Economic Commission for Africa to accelerate the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

28. In view of the seriousness of the situation which, during the past few years, has prevailed in three African countries, because of the progressive deterioration of the political situation which resulted in massive destruction of property and serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, the Assembly adopted three resolutions on assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Chad (resolution 34/120), Uganda (resolution 34/122) and Equatorial Guinea (resolution 34/123) by which the Assembly, inter alia, urgently appealed to all Member States, the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international economic and financial institutions to provide generous emergency aid to these countries through bilateral and multilateral channels, with a view to meeting their reconstruction, rehabilitation and development needs. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to dispatch missions to those countries to consult with the respective Governments on the additional assistance they required for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the countries, and to organize international programmes of financial, technical and material assistance to each of these countries to meet their long-term and short-term needs with respect to reconstruction, rehabilitation and development. The attention of the international community was drawn to the special accounts for these countries which had been established under the United Nations Trust Fund for Special Economic Assistance Programmes for the purpose of facilitating the channelling of contributions to Chad, Uganda and Equatorial Guinea. Member States and international financial institutions were urged to contribute generously to these funds.

29. Like in previous years, resolutions were adopted by the General Assembly requesting the international community to provide effective and continuous financial, material and technical assistance to many African countries whose economic situation was estimated to be very precarious and which were already beneficiaries of the United Nations special assistance programmes. These included: Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti, Botswana, Seychelles, the Comoros, Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Sao Tome and Principe.

30. The General Assembly also adopted resolution 34/21 of 9 November 1979 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity whereby it recognized the importance of continued close association by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, where appropriate, with the efforts of the Organization of African Unity to promote social and economic development and to advance intra-African co-operation and reaffirmed the determination of the United Nations to work closely with the Organization of African Unity towards the establishment of the New International Economic Order in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The Assembly recommended to the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy that it take full account in its work of the Monrovia Strategy for Economic Development in Africa and ensure that it was duly reflected in the international development strategy for the Third Development Decade to be adopted at the special session of the General Assembly in 1980. It reiterated its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts, on behalf of the international community, to organize and mobilize special economic assistance programmes for African States experiencing grave economic difficulties, in particular for newly independent African States and the front-line States.

31. Among the other resolutions on economic matters adopted by the General Assembly and which are of interest to States members of ECA, mention may be made of resolution 34/16 on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region, resolution 34/54 on assistance to drought stricken areas of Ethiopia, resolution 34/137 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries and resolution 34/187 on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

32. In the social field and most particularly with regard to the integration of women in the development process, the General Assembly, by resolution 34/155 of 17 December 1979 on United Nations Decade for Women, called upon member States to ensure, as regards both education and access to public functions of a social, economic, administrative or political character, conditions of equality between men and women and promotion without discrimination. The Assembly requested the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women to consider, under the general theme "Development", appropriate means of ensuring the more effective participation of women in the planning and policy processes of their Governments and more adequate reflection of their needs and concerns in these processes. The Assembly further called upon Governments to take steps to ensure effective participation of women in the decision-making process with respect to foreign policy and international economic and political co-operation, including steps to ensure that they are represented in the United Nations and other international organizations.

33. By resolution 34/157 of 17 December 1979 on International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the General Assembly invited Governments to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute which the Government of the Dominican Republic offered to host.

34. By resolution 34/159 of 17 December 1979 on importance of the improvement of status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields for the achievement of the equality of women with men, the Assembly urged states to take necessary measures to promote full equality of women with men in education and in the economic and social fields, recommended that States envisage in their policies all appropriate measures to create necessary conditions which will enable women to participate in work on an equal footing with men.

35. By resolution 34/162 of 17 December 1979 on Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, the Assembly, after noting that regional preparatory meetings have taken place at Paris, New Delhi and Caracas and that two more were scheduled to take place at Lusaka and Damascus, the Assembly approved the recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference concerning the activities related to the preparation of the Conference, requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary budgetary appropriations, inter alia, to ensure the participation of one representative of each of the least developed countries in the Conference, the satisfactory preparation of the documentation for the Conference. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to seek extrabudgetary funds to ensure the participation of one representative from each of the island and land-locked developing countries in the Conference.

ANNEX

Statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Article I

Purpose and functions of the Institute

1. The primary purpose of the Institute shall be the training of specialists and senior officials of those services and institutions in Africa responsible for economic development and planning. Such training shall include appropriate supporting research activities. The Institute shall also organize seminars of varied duration on practical problems of national or regional development and of the planning of various economic factors. The functions of the Institute shall be as follows:

(a) To provide at its headquarters training courses of varying duration on various aspects of development and planning. The details of such courses and the requirements for admission shall be determined periodically by the Governing Council on the advice of the Advisory Board on Studies and Research. The Council will also determine the type and nature of the certificates to be awarded at the end of such activities;

(b) To organize in African countries, in co-operation with the appropriate national services and the specialized agencies concerned, seminars of varying duration on practical problems of national and regional development and planning;

(c) To provide advisory services at the request of Governments and in so far as the training programme allows;

(d) To establish documentation which will be made available throughout Africa to research workers, to national institutions dealing with economic development problems and to sub-regional organizations in the field of economic planning and development;

(e) In undertaking these four functions, the Institute should take into account the paramount importance of promoting and defending the economic independence of African countries.

Article II

Site of the Institute

1. The headquarters of the Institute shall be situated at Dakar, Senegal.

2. The host Government shall provide, in agreement with the United Nations, adequate premises, facilities and services as required for the efficient operation of the Institute.

Article III

Status and organization of the Institute

1. The Institute is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The Institute shall have its own Governing Council and budget. It shall be subject to the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, except as may be otherwise provided by the General Assembly. It shall also be subject to the Financial Rules, the Staff Rules and all other administrative issuances of the Secretary-General, except as may be otherwise decided by him.

3. In addition, there shall be an Advisory Board on Studies and Research, a Director and supporting staff.

Article IV

The Governing Council

1. The Governing Council shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who shall be ex-officio Chairman;

(b) A representative of the Government of Senegal;

(c) Twelve members appointed by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the recommendation of the Conference of African Planners. These members, selected on the basis of their personal competence and experience in affairs connected with the work of the Institute, must be nationals of 12 different African countries, chosen with due consideration for the principle of geographic distribution. They shall be appointed for a period of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment. To achieve continuity, six of the 12 shall initially be appointed for two years. Vacancies occurring due to disability or resignation shall be filled for the interim period by the ECA Executive Committee or the Conference of Ministers, whichever meets first;

(d) During the period of UNDP assistance to the Institute, a UNDP representative, who will normally be the UNDP resident representative at Dakar, shall participate as a non-voting member in the deliberations of the Governing Council;

(e) The Director of the Institute shall act as secretary of the Governing Council.

2. The Governing Council shall:

(a) Lay down general principles and policies governing the operations of the Institute, including the general conditions of admission;

(b) Review and approve work programmes and the relevant budgets;

(c) Examine and approve the Director's annual report on the work and progress of the Institute, including the budgetary and financial report for the preceding year;

(d) Present an annual report on the work of the Institute including a complete audited report in respect of all income and expenditures at the appropriate meeting of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa or the Conference of Ministers;

(e) Review the administration of the Institute and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate.

3. The Governing Council shall hold an ordinary session twice a year, once to adopt the budget and programme activities and once to review the management report and statement of accounts. It may hold an extraordinary session at the request of the Chairman or one third of its members. The Governing Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article V

The Chairman of the Governing Council

1. The Chairman of the Council shall:

(a) Convene the Governing Council and prepare its agenda;

(b) By delegation of authority from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, appoint the Director and other staff of the Institute;

(c) With the approval of the Governing Council, solicit and receive aid from specialized agencies of the United Nations, intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other sources.

Article VI

The Director

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, upon recommendation by the Executive Secretary of ECA, shall appoint the Director of the Institute. The Executive Secretary shall consult with the Governing Council before making his recommendation. The initial appointment of the Director shall be for three years, renewable for succeeding periods of two years each.

2. The Director will be assisted by a Deputy Director.

3. The Director shall have the responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute. In accordance with the policies laid down by the Governing Council, he shall:

(a) Submit the programme and budget of the Institute to the Governing Council for approval;

(b) Carry out programmes and effect disbursements as provided in the budget through which funds have been allocated;

(c) Submit to the Governing Council annual reports on the activities of the Institute, together with a complete report on revenue and expenditure for the preceding period;

(d) Submit the names of senior personnel for approval and appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, depending on the level of the posts to be encumbered;

(e) Select and appoint personnel of the Institute other than those in (d) above, after consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(f) Make the necessary arrangements with other national and international organizations for the utilization of the services offered by the Institute, it being understood that arrangements with national organizations will be made with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Article VII

Advisory Board on Studies and Research

1. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research shall be composed of:

- The Director of the Institute;
- The Deputy Director;
- Two senior lecturers nominated by the Director;
- A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa;
- A representative of each of the United Nations agencies concerned;
- Four professors or research workers appointed by the Chairman of the Governing Council, having regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation;
- Two senior members of appropriate university disciplines outside Africa, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the Governing Council and proposed by the Chairman.

2. Members of the Board appointed by the Chairman of the Governing Council shall normally be requested to serve for at least three years.

3. The Director shall be the Chairman of the Advisory Board on Studies and Research.

4. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research shall be responsible for giving technical advice with regard to the design of research and study programmes of the Institute.

5. The Board shall be convened at least once a year by its Chairman. At its meeting, it shall formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Governing Council on the future work programme of IDEP.

Article VIII

Co-operation with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, within the limits of its resources, assist the Institute in every possible way in order to facilitate its work in economic planning for Africa. In particular, ECA should, from time to time, make available to the Institute experienced staff to give lectures, to assist in supervising research and to participate in seminars.

Article IV

Financial resources and rules governing the financial management of the Institute

The Institute shall derive its finances from contributions made by African Governments and by UNDP. The Institute may derive further resources in cash or in kind from the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other governmental organizations and institutions, Governments and non-governmental organizations. Acceptance by the Institute of offers of such further assistance shall, in every case, be subject to the decision of the Chairman of the Governing Council, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, in accordance with the basic aims of the Institute and the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Institute. The Chairman of the Governing Council shall report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

Article X

General remarks

1. This statute supersedes that adopted pursuant to resolution 93 (VI) of 27 February 1964 at the 109th meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The Secretary-General is requested to issue revised administrative instructions to ensure the effective implementation of this statute.

207th meeting
27 March 1979